[0072] In those embodiments that may utilize the gooseneck hitch ball **448**, the under bed hitch mounting system **30** may utilize the mid rail or adapter **45**; exemplary embodiments of which are shown in FIGS. **13-16**. The mid rail or adapter plate **45** may be of any appropriate shape or size, such as a generally rectangular or tubular shape that may generally span the length between the rails **40**. The mid rail or adapter plate **45** may be configured to connect to the rails **40**. The mid rail or adapter plate **45** may be attached to the rails by any appropriate means, such as with fasteners, welding or the like.

[0073] The adapter plate **45** may be of a generally one piece construction or may include several sections that may be secured together. The adapter plate **45** may include a center section **432** and one or more mounting sections **434** extending therefrom. By way of a non-limiting example, there may be two mounting sections **434**. As an alternative, there may be no mounting sections **434**, such that the center section **432** may be attached directly to the rails **40**.

[0074] The center section **432** may be located between the mounting sections **434**. The mounting sections **434** may extend at a downward angle and away from the center section **432**, such that the center section **432** may be positioned above the mounting sections **434**. The mounting sections **434** may extend in opposite directions away from the center section **432**.

[0075] The mounting sections **434** may engage the rails **40** at any appropriate location, such as the underside **44** of the rails **40**. The mounting sections **434** may be configured to connect to the rails **40** by any appropriate means, such as with fasteners, welding or the like. When the adapter plate **45** may be connected to the rails **40**, the center section **432** may be approximately flush with and parallel to the rails **40**. When the mounting section **434** may engage the rails **40**, the mounting sections **434** may be approximately parallel to the rails **40**. Each mounting section **434** may include one or more openings or rail mounting apertures **438**. The mounting apertures **438** may be configured to align with mounting apertures **47** in the rails **40**, shown in FIG. **4**. The mounting apertures **438** may be of any appropriate shape or size, such as a generally circular, ovular or rectangular shape.

[0076] The adapter plate or mid rail **45** may also include a base member **442**. The base member **442** may be of any appropriate shape or size, such as a generally square, rectangular or tubular shape. The base member **442** may be attached to the bottom of the adapter plate or mid rail **45**. The base member **442** may be attached to the mid rail **45** by any appropriate means, such as by welding, fasteners or the like. The base member **442** may also be secured to the rails **40**, such as on the underside **44** of the rails **40**.

[0077] The adapter plate or mid rail **45** may be configured to receive a hitch ball **448**. By way of a non-limiting example, the center section **432** may include a hitch ball socket **450** that may be configured to receive the hitch ball **448**. The hitch ball socket **450** may be of any appropriate shape or size, such as a generally cylindrical shape. The hitch ball socket **450** may be located at any appropatie position on the adapter plate **45**, such as the approximate center of the adapter plate **45**. By way of a non-limiting example, the hitch ball socket **450** may be configured to receive a removable hitch ball **448** with spring-loaded ball bearings. It should be appreciated, however, that the receptacle **450** may be configured to receive any appropriate type of hitch ball **448** and should not be limited to that shown or described herein.

[0078] Apertures may be drilled in the load bed **32** of the towing vehicle **34** that may generally correspond to the locations of the sockets **73** in the rails **40** and the hitch ball socket **450**. A fifth wheel hitch may be removably connected to the sockets **73** in the rails **40** through the apertures located in the load bed **32**. A hitch ball **448** may be removably connected to the hitch ball socket **450** through the aperture **455** in the load bed **32**, whereby a gooseneck hitch may be utilized.

[0079] In other embodiments shown in FIGS. **20-24**, a receiving member **574** may include a channel member **576** and an accessory attachment member or puck member **578**. In some embodiments, the receiving member **574** or more specifically, the channel member **576** may include a pair of legs that may be of a shape and size to permit the channel member **576** to generally fit within the socket **73** so that a top surface **586** of the channel member **576** may be generally flush or substantially flush with the top surface **42** of the rails **40**. In other embodiments, the channel member **576** may not include legs. In these embodiments, however, the channel member **576** may be attached to the rails **40** by any appropriate method, such as by way of a non-limiting example, welding, using fasteners, or the like.

[0080] Once attached, the channel member **567** may be generally shorter than the bottom side of the load bed **32** of the towing vehicle **34**. This may result in being capable of attaching the under bed hitch mounting system **30** with the channel member **576** being attached to the towing vehicle **34** and not having to create apertures in the load bed **32** if they may be undesired. In addition, certain of the apertures may not be needed if only a gooseneck option was chosen, i.e., only needing three of the five apertures.

[0081] The channel member **576** may further include a pair of locking apertures **592** and a recessed portion **585**. In some embodiments, the channel member **576** may include a pair of recessed portions **585** as shown in FIG. **24**. The puck member **578** may include a locking mechanism **593** such as a locking pin **597** as shown in FIG. **24**, a flange **595** and a center section recess **598**. In some embodiments, the puck member **578** may include a pair of flanges **595** that may be correspondingly shaped and sized to the recessed portions **585** of the channel member **576**. In these embodiments, the puck member **578** may be attached to the channel member **576** by generally aligning the flanges **595** with the recessed portions **585** and inserting the puck member **574** relative to the channel member **576**. This may secure the puck member **578** to the channel member **576**.

[0082] More specifically, the channel member **576** may include a channel **600** positioned therein. Once the puck member **578** may be inserted into the channel member **576** and rotated, the flanges **595** of the puck member **578** may be rotated to be positioned within the channel **600**, which may generally prevent the puck member **578** from being removed. In these embodiments, the puck member **578** may be rotated approximately a quarter turn, i.e., 90 degrees, to be locked into place. As shown in FIGS. **20-23**, the flanges **595** may become generally misaligned with the recess portions **585** and the flanges **595** may engage the channel **600** of the channel member **576** selectively attaching the puck member **578** to the channel member **576**.